

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 66.

Please amend claim 65 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-64 (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining an organism from a mixed population of organisms in [[a]] an environmental sample comprising:

- (a) individually encapsulating two or more organisms obtained from the sample, each in [[a]] an aqueous microenvironment suitable for growth of the organisms;
- (b) incubating the individually encapsulated two or more organisms under such conditions and for such a time to allow ~~the two or more~~ at least one of the organisms to grow; ~~and~~
- (c) sorting the microenvironments by a flow cytometer on ~~the basis of~~ growth of the ~~organism~~ organisms alone to separate organisms that grow ~~obtain an organism from the sample that grows under the conditions~~ from organisms that do not grow under the conditions; and
- (d) obtaining an organism that grows under the conditions.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Original) The method of claim 65, wherein the mixed population of organisms comprises microorganisms.

68. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the environmental sample contains extremophiles.
69. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the extremophiles are selected from the group consisting of hyperthermophiles, psychrophiles, halophiles, psychrotrophs, alkalophiles, and acidophiles.
70. (Original) The method of claim 65, wherein the flow cytometer comprises a magnetic field sensing device.
71. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein the magnetic field sensing device is a Super Conducting Quantum Interference Device.

Claim 72 (Canceled)